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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/528,315	03/17/2005	Mirko Appel	2002P1575WOUS	4513

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Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

BARBEE, MANUEL L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2857

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/20/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,315

Applicant(s)

APPEL ET AL.

Examiner

Manuel L. Barbee

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 March 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/17/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because the unlabeled rectangular boxes in Figure 1 should be provided with descriptive text labels. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The acronym "a.m.", which first appears on page 1, paragraph 4 should be defined.

On page 2, paragraph 12 refers to "claim 1 respectively 3." Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled and in the event that this application is allowed claims would be renumbered. Paragraphs 12 and 13 should be canceled or may be amended to make a general reference to the preferred embodiment being found in the claims.

On page 6, paragraph 46 should refer to Figure 2 where systems 22 and sub-system 20 are first shown. Also delete "sub-systems 24", and insert --sub-system 20--.

On page 9, line 1 of paragraph 74, delete "32 respectively", and insert --temperature 32 and fluid--.

On page 9, line 1 of paragraph 75, delete "36 respectively", and insert --bearing temperature 36 and--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Independent claims 7 and 13 include limitations for classifying the operating situation as normal, stationary, transient, tolerable, abnormal and dangerous. The

claims appear to state that the operating situation is normal and abnormal concurrently, and also tolerable and dangerous concurrently. The claims should clearly show that these classifications are available in the alternative. Dependent claims 8, 9 and 11-13 are rejected for the same reason.

6. Regarding claim 8, the phrase "preferably" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claims 7 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 7 is directed to an abstract idea. For a claim directed to an abstract to be statutory, the claim must be for a practical application, which may be shown with limitations for a physical transformation or for producing a result that is concrete, tangible and useful (See MPEP 2106, IV.C.). The result of the claims appears to be a classification, but the result is not tangible. Therefore, claim 7 is non-statutory.

Claims 10-13 are directed to an apparatus that is comprised of two modules. The modules appear to be programs or software. Programs that are not embodied in a computer readable medium are nonfunctional descriptive material and are non-statutory (See MPEP 2106.01).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication 2004/0010444 to Delorme et al. (Delorme).

With regard to deriving a temperature pattern from a number of temperature values and temperature information related to a technical installation, as shown in claims 7 and 10, Delorme teaches using an infrared (IR) imaging system to capture IR images. With regard to comparing the temperature pattern to a known and stored failure and process disturbance temperature pattern, as shown in claims 7 and 10, Delorme teaches comparing the IR images to failure patterns (par. 23). With regard to classifying the current operation, as shown in claims 7 and 10, Delorme teaches determining if the circuit that is imaged is defect-free or faulty (par. 23). With regard to a data acquisition module, as shown in claim 10, Delorme teaches an IR imaging system (par. 23; Fig. 1).

With regard to storing the classification of the current operating situation in database for future comparison, as shown in claims 8, 11 and 13, Delorme teaches storing the pattern with no match in a database as a new entry (par. 23).

With regard to an IR camera, as shown in claims 9 and 12, Delorme teaches an IR imaging system (par. 23).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

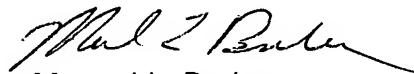
Choi (US Patent No. 6,796,709) teaches monitoring a turbine blade health with an IR camera.

Tominaga et al. (JP 2005073333 A) teach comparing a temperature distribution to stored temperature distribution information.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manuel L. Barbee whose telephone number is 571-272-2212. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on 571-272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Manuel L. Barbee
Examiner
Art Unit 2857

mlb
December 12, 2006